

## Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, UR, ECON

SUBJECT: NEW BRANCH OF USSR FUEL INDUSTRY

1. TASS VESTNIK, FEBRUARY 23, CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH DR. K. MANGUSHEV,

DIRECTOR OF FORECASTING OIL INDUSRY DEVELOPMENT, INSTITUTE OF FUEL  
AND ENERGY PROBLEMS, MOSCOW, IN WHICH HE STTES NEW BRANCH OF USSR FUEL

INDUSTRY WILL BE CREATED IN "NEAR FUTURE." IT WILL USE AS RAW MAT-  
ERIAL BITUMENS-"FOSSIL" FUEL WHICH HAS LOST ITS LIGHT FACTION  
AS A RESULT OF GEOLOGICAL SHOCKS. BITUMENS HAVE SAME HYDROCARBON  
CONTENT AS ORDINARY OIL, WHICH MAKES THEM FORM OF NATURAL FOSSIL  
FUEL TO BE MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO OIL, RESOURCES OF WHICH  
"NOTICEABLY ARE BECOMING DEPLETED."

2. MANGUSHEV STATES THAT SAME OIL PRODUCTS CAN BE PRODUCED FROM  
BITUMENS AS FROM ORDINARY OIL. DIESEL FUEL OBTAINED FROM THEM HAS  
AN EVIDENT ADVANTAGE-LOW TEMPERATURE SOLIDIFICATION POINT--  
WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ARCTIC AND SIBERIAN REGIONS. NO LESS  
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SIGNIFICANT IS FACT THAT BITUMENS CAN BE REFINED AT EXISTING

PLANTS AND THAT SOVIET SCIENTISTS HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED  
TECHNIQUES FOR DOING SO.

3. UNLIKE REFINING, HOWEVER, EXTRACTION OF BITUMINOUS OIL REQUIRES  
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. USE OF ARTIFICIAL FIRES FOR THIS  
PURPOSE IS BEING STUDIED. METHOD PROJECTED ENVISIONS  
IGNITION OF UNDERGROUND FIRES CAPABLE OF TURNING EXTREMELY  
HARD BITUMEN OIL INTO A LIQUID. BITUMENS LIE CLOSE TO SURFACE WHICH  
MAKES USE OF MINING TECHNIQUES POSSIBLE, INCLUDING OPEN-PIT MINING.

4. ACCORDING TO MANGUSHEV, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT INTRODUCTION  
OF BITUMINOUS HYDROCARBONS INTO USSR'S FUEL-ENERGY BALANCE WILL  
RESULT IN ADDITIONAL TENS OF MILLIONS OF TONS OF OIL PRO-  
DUCTION. THIS WILL HELP SUPPORT HIGH RATE OF GROWTH OF  
30 MILLION TONS OF OIL ANNUALLY PLANNED FOR TENTH FIVE YEAR  
PLAN 1976-80.

5. A COMPANION TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF INTERVIEW QUOTES  
MANGUSHEV TO EFFECT THAT USSR'S EXPLORED BITUMEN DEPOSITS  
ARE ASSESSED AT SEVERAL THOUSAND MILLION CUBIC METERS.

6. COMMENT: DRAFT DIRECTIVES FOR TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN INCLUDES  
PROVISION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK ON EXTRACTION OF  
OIL FROM BITUMINOUS ROCK.

MANGUSHEV INTERVIEW IS INTERESTING ALSO AS ANOTHER INDICATION  
OF USSR RESOLVE TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF "ORDINARY" OIL  
WHETHER BECAUSE EXISTING RESERVES, PARTICULARLY IN WEST SIBERIA,  
MAY NOT BE AS EXTENSIVE AS ORIGINALLY BELIEVED OR DUE TO DIFFICULT  
PROBLEMS IN OIL EXTRACTION BECAUSE OF LOCATION IN SIBERIA  
AND FAR EAST OF MOST USSR OIL RESERVES. LARGE-SCALE UTILIZATION OF  
OIL FROM BITUMENS IN NEAR FUTURE SEEMS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, IN  
VIEW OF NEED TO PERFECT EXTRACTION METHODS. OIL SHALE AND  
OIL-ASSOCIATED GAS ARE OTHER "SECONDARY" FORMS OF FUEL  
PLANNED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN NEW PLAN.

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